

*bullockoides*, *M. pusillus* and *M. nubicus nubicoides* in 70% ethanol for 9, 4 and 4 months respectively. One series of immersed skins was exposed to sunlight for up to 4 hours daily, and another was kept in the dark. Plumage colours of both series and of all 3 species was greatly affected and in similar respects, so that all changes were clearly wrought by spirit immersion and none by light. As with the *M. persicus* material, greens became blue-greens on exposed ends of feathers but not on their bases, producing an effect very like that of sun-bleached living bee-eaters long after their last moult; yellows and reds were totally suppressed, pure yellow (throat of *M. pusillus*) becoming ivory, scarlet (throat of *M. bullockoides*) becoming pale buff, bright pink (underparts, mantle and back of *M. nubicus*) becoming buffy white, and carmine (wings and tail of *M. nubicus*) changing to gingery brown. Other colours – blues, orange-buffs and black – were unaffected.

References:

Fry, C. H. 1984. *The Bee-eaters*. Poyser.

Moltoni, E. 1928. Descrizione di un nuovo Meropidae (Aves) dell'Eritrea. *Atti. Soc. Ital. Sci. Nat.* 67: 179–181.

Moltoni, E. & Gnechchi Ruscone, G. 1940-1944. *Gli Uccelli dell'Africa Orientale Italiana*. Milan.

Address: Dr C. H. Fry, Aberdeen University, Zoology Department, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen AB9 2TN.

© British Ornithologists' Club 1985

## IN BRIEF

### Replacement name for *Acrocephalus aedon rufescens* (Stegmann)

by George E. Watson

Received 20 November 1984

The broadened concept of some sylviid genera to be adopted in Volume 11 of Peters' *Check-list of Birds of the World* has resulted in some homonymy in the genus *Acrocephalus*. The Rufous Swamp or Rufous Cane Warbler, formerly known as *Calamoecetor rufescens*, was originally described as *Bradypterus rufescens* Sharpe & Bouvier, 1876, *Bull. Soc. Zool. France*, 1: 307. The Thick-billed Reed Warbler of extreme eastern Siberia and northeast China, originally described as *Phragmaticola aedon rufescens* Stegmann, 1929, *Journ. f. Ornith.* 77: 250, becomes a junior homonym when both are placed in the genus *Acrocephalus*. I propose *Acrocephalus aedon stegmanni* as a replacement name for *Phragmaticola aedon rufescens* Stegmann. If the generic name, *Phragmaticola*, is used it should be amended to *Phragmaticola* (see Bond 1975, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 95: 50–51).

Address: Dr George E. Watson, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, USA.

© British Ornithologists' Club 1985